

## X. Tools

Volunteers can't do the job without the right tools. As funding allows, the SNA program will provide appropriate tools for volunteers to use and share.

### A. Storage

Storage areas for each part of the state will be identified. As funding allows, equipment trailers may be purchased providing an access point for tools.

### B. Checkout

An online checkout system will ensure everyone understands tool availability. It includes equipment owned, who it was loaned to, when it was loaned, expected return date, what it was reserved for, and future reservations. Contact with the regional volunteer coordinator (or volunteer tool coordinator as appointed by the regional volunteer coordinator) should also be made so there is a point person with knowledge of where tools are travelling and how much they are being used.

### C. Safe usage

Safely using tools is important for volunteer safety and the ability of the program to use tools in the future. Safe usage of herbicides is addressed in [Section XI, "Herbicides"](#). Additional knowledge is gained by acquiring a Wisconsin Pesticide Applicators Certification. Chainsaw safety is covered in chainsaw safety courses. Safe usage of brushsaws is covered in [Section XII, "Brushsaw safety"](#). Consult the appropriate tool manuals (online) for important information on safe usage.

### D. Maintenance

Equipment needs to be returned in the same condition in which it was checked out. If the equipment is not in good working order the volunteer must contact the regional tool coordinator to let them know of the problem and any parts that need ordered. This is normal as tools will break with normal use. When returned, chainsaws should have sharp chains, air filters cleaned, inside gunk brushed out; brushsaws should have reasonably sharp blades, air filters cleaned, periodically spark arrestors cleaned; and backpack sprayers should be triple rinsed after each use in the field so herbicides do not quickly corrode the moving parts and seals. Consult the appropriate tool manual (online) for the most helpful information on preventative maintenance. The regional volunteer coordinator will perform preventative maintenance on tools when needed or appoint a volunteer tool coordinator to do so. Volunteers should not perform maintenance if they do not feel comfortable doing it (ex: adjusting the carburetor settings on a chainsaw).